

REMARKS

Polit. Pamphlet &c.

O N

Mr. Steele's CRISIS, &c.

By O N E of the

CLERGY.



In a LETTER to the Author.

*Amphora cœpit
Institui, currente Rotæ cur Urceus exit?*

EDINBURGH:

Printed by Mr. ROBERT FREEBAIRN,
Printer to the QUEEN's Most Excellent
Majesty, MDCCXIV.

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ON

Mr. Steele's CRISIS, &c.

By ONE of the

GALLERY.



In a LETTER to the Author.

Is it not, certainly, a most excellent
and useful work?

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ON

Mr. Steele's CRISIS, &c.

SIR,

YOUR long expected Work is at last come to Hand; and since you have made me one of your Patrons, by Dedicating it to the Clergy of the Church of England, you'll excuse me if I take the Liberty of making my self one of your Judges. Your frequent Advertisements in your Paper call'd the *Englistman*, the Pompous and Ostentatious Method that was taken by your Adherents and Abettors to raise the sinking Spirits of a Ruin'd Party, by the Popularity of your Name, and the many Discoveries of those amazing and affrightful Dangers that were said to encompass us, join'd to the Fears of Innovations in Matters of Religion, which the Gentlemen of our Function are very liable to, made me give into Suspicions that some Designs were really on Foot, and would be prov'd to be, for altering our Constitution in Church and State. But when the *Mountain* brought forth, and the poor insignificant *Mouse* made its Publick Appearance; when all the Stir, and all the boasted Productions dwindled into a few Acts of Parliament that rather make for our Security, than evince our Danger: when the most *Authentic Records*, which the World fancied to themselves would be extracted out of Doomsday-Book, and other Original and Valuable Papers, not to be found but by

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Curious and Learned Investigations, are nothing else but what every Hawker can furnish us with, from the Queen's Printing-House at Black-Fryars; 'tis natural for us to say with the Poet, *Quid tanto venit hic Premissor Hic tu?* - With what Assurance can this Non-Performer feed us up with Hopes of a Set-Feast, when his Entertainment is nothing else but Cold Meat, and what we have more than once satiated our selves with?

In my Opinion, a Gentleman of Mr. Steele's Delicacy should have treated his Guests with something New, especially when he had half the Money in Hand for their Dinner, before they eat it. But it is one Thing to work one's self into a Reputation, by taking Advantage of People's false Notions of Merit; and another, to obtain Credit and Applause, by Proposing to their Imitation what is actually worthy of that Character. You that have dub'd your self the Censor of Great Britain, and set up for the only Judge of what is Commendable, and what not, have it in your Breast to make the Application.

But it's high Time that I come to the Business in Hand, and, without Launching out into Generals, descend into Particulars. To begin then with the Title of your Pamphlet, it bears the Name of THE CRISIS, but for what Reason? Is it because this is the Critical Minute for People to give into Fears and Jealousies concerning the Administration of Affairs by the Queen and Present Ministry? Or are you induced to call it so from the Deference you are apt to pay to your own Opinion and Judgment? Are our National Disorders come to their Crisis, and our Groundless Discontents ripe enough for Mutiny and Rebellion, and Prescriptions for Phlebotomy, from you that have Usurp'd the Name of our Physician? Are there no more Pretenders than One; and is that Nominal Prince Landed at Dover, that the Trumpet must sound out, *To Arms, To Arms,* and the Word be, *To your Arms, O Israel.* Alas, alas, Mr. Tatler, Mr. Spectator, Mr. Guardian,

Guardian, Mr. Englishman, Mr. Ironside, Mr. Steele where is your wonted Understanding? Whither is that Brightness, that Vivacity of Thought, that Elegancy of Expression, and Accuracy of Judgment fled, that us'd to distinguish your Writings, and set them apart from the Compositions of other Authors? Has your new acquired Dignity turn'd your Head, that you turn Combatant with Chimeras, and give your self up to Imagine a Vain thing? Are not the very Acts of Settlement that are inserted in your Pamphlet, so many Arguments against the Design of it; and the Articles of Peace that Relate to the Removal of the *Pretender* from the Territories of *France*, undeniable Instances of making those Acts of Settlement good? Has not the Queen, in Pursuance of Addresses from both Houses of the last Parliament, by Her Ministers at the several Courts in Amity and Friendship with Her, given in Memorials against their Harboursing or Receiving Her Pretended Rival? Is there not as good an Understanding between Her Majesty and the Family of the next Protestant Successor as it is possible for Princes to Cultivate? And is not Mr. *Harley* now, just now, going a second Time to make greater Improvements in it? Has not the Queen Her self said as much from the Throne, and will you be the Person that shall dare not to believe Her? You that have receiv'd so much of Her Bounty; and Eat of Her Bread almost in every Capacity? For let me tell you, your Fears of *Popery* at this Time of Day, when such ample Provision is made against it, by wholesome Laws and wise Precautions, must proceed from your Distrust of the Queen and Her Ministers, and no other Original? For how can it enter into any one Man's Thoughts, that that Religion can ever obtain here, without their Consent in whose Hands the Government of our Treasures, our Fleets, and Armies are safely entrusted, and from whose want of Foresight and Circumspection, all such Changes in Matters Civil and Ecclesiastical, must
Necess.

Necessarily flow? So that your instilling these Unreasonable Apprehensions into the Minds of the People, who, by the good Nature they have shewn to the Rest of your Compositions, will, in all Probability, have Favourable Conceptions of this, can be construed nothing else but an Arraignment of their Conduct; which would scarce have been overlook'd with that Disregard and Forbearance by the late Ministry with which your Unjust and Ungrateful Insinuations have been receiv'd by this.

When the Church was actually in Danger, and your Favorite Heroes and Statesmen presid'd at the Helm of Government; when the Beams of Majesty were intercepted, and withheld from Shining on the best Ornaments of the Establish'd Church, by a Set of Men whose Business it was to give all the Discouragement they could to Loyal Principles: When a Set of *Atheists, Deists, and Republicans* Surrounded the Throne, and not only our Holy Religion, but the Queen Herself was Subjected so much to the greatest of Hazards; then it was Criminal in the highest Nature to give Vent to our Sorrows, and publish our Dutiful Apprehensions of Imminent Perils that were present to our View, from a loose and Disorderly Administration; witness the Treatment which both the Author of the Church of England's Memorial, and that Author's Vindicator met with: The one being flung into a Fit of Sickness, of which he Died, by his too much laying to Heart his Barbarous and unjust Prosecution, and the other Fin'd and Punish'd in such a Manner, after his Cause had been prejudg'd in the *Jury*, and given against him on the *Bench* by forc'd Constructions and Innuendoes, as will render the Moderation of your pretended Saints a standing Monument of Violence and Injustice.

But the Cruelties exercis'd against them carry the Face of Mercies, when compared with the Proceedings in a Higher Court, after the most Solemn Manner, against the Prerogatives of the Crown, and the Rights and Liberties of every particular Subject of *England*, in the Person

son of our pretended Delinquent, who for preaching the Dictates of the Holy Spirit, and giving the Scriptures their true Meaning and Interpretation; as he enforc'd the Observance of Humane Laws; was Accus'd; Impeach'd, Try'd and found Guilty, not without unwarrantable Reflections against the just Exercise of the Sovereign Authority, even when the Presence of his, and their Queen, should have aw'd them into more Dutiful Expressions of the Reverence that is owing to God's Vicegerent.

What follow'd is so well known, and so productive of happy Effects, that we who trembled for the Opportunities that were then given, for the Enemies of our Holy Profession to Ridicule and Despitely us, could not but rejoice at the Means which were made use of to bring about so sudden and unexpected a Turn of Affairs, at the same time as we Lamented the Censure and Sufferings of one, that in Common with us, was set apart for the more immediate Service of God in his truly apostolical Church, which escaped soon after from the Snare that were laid for it as a Bird out of the Hands of the Fowler.

Yet tho' the Republican Party had lost that Power which they exercis'd in a more Arbitrary Manner than any Prince ever did, for whom their Doctrine of Resistance was calculated; Tho' they were divested of their Employment, by Vertue of which they had parcel'd out the Regal Authority among them, without so much as leaving one Prerogative to their Queen, with which she might display some Tokens of Sovereignty; they would not part with their Principles, by which they were taught to make their Successors uneasy in their Administration. They knew that Popery had a terrible Sound in an English Ear, and therefore play'd that Word against the Constitution from all their Batteries. The Peace with France, which was necessary to repair the Depredations committed upon the Publick Monies both at Home and Abroad, soon gave them a Handle to make Use of the

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Pretender's Name, and the Writers on the Side of the Pretender, among whom you came in as a Volontier, had immediate Instructions to fire upon the Present Ministry with Fears and Jealousies from that Quarter.

This had Success enough to bring such of the Clergy into the Quarrel, who, in Obedience to our Blessed Saviour's Commands, are for *Rendering unto Cæsar the Things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the Things that are God's*, and all those, who, thank the Divine Providence, are Nine Parts in Ten, that would not give into their Impious Schemes of Desecrating Holy Places, and having an Abhorrence of Duties laid down for their Practice in God's Word, were branded and stigmatiz'd with the Odious Character of being *Disaffected to the Hanover Succession, Enemies to the Revolution, and Avowed Disfowners of the Queen's Parliamentary Title*; for so they are pleas'd to express themselves in Opposition to Her Majesty's *Hereditary Right*, that Her Claim to Sovereignty may seem Precarious, and Dependent of the People's Choice.

'Tis to be confess'd indeed, That Mr. Steele has more Forecast with him, than to run precipitately into such violent Lengths as his Brethren of the Quill; but if he should be whisper'd in the Ear, by way of Advertisement, that he has done us and our Order more Harm by his Pretended Friendship, than they by their Declared Enmity, and be told that he disguis'd all his good Wishes for the whole Body of the Clergy under the Cloak of Maliciousness and Feign'd Zeal, I presume such a Truth would rather give you an Uneasiness for your being found out, than any Disquiet for the Guilt of the Sin of Hypocrisy.

I remember, when the famous Dr. Tillotson, a Man in as great Request by his Discoveries of the Growth of Popery in those Days, as it is possible, I presume, for any one to be in these, was ask'd once the Reason of his continuing to wear the Habit of a *Church of England Divine*, when he had actually departed from that Communion

Union (if ever he heartily embraced it) and engaged in the Service of the Sectaries called *Anabaptists*. *Monmouth, Sirrah*, said he to the Person that put the Question, *you are a Rogue and a Rascal, but to satisfy you for this shoo, I go thus Accounted to show them in their true Colours*. Which was as much as to say, I purposely put on this Robe to disgrace that Order to whom it belongs, which my Wearing of it will effectually do. I shall ask no Body to apply this, out of a due Sense of the Scandal that may arise from such a Comparison, but only infer from hence, that there have been Persons in the World, and may be again, who, by an outward Appearance of Reverence to our Function, may endeavour to do it a conceal'd Mischief, and secret Dishonour; and, under the Pretence of Dedicating Books of Complaints and groundless Jealousies, make them Sharers in the Guilt of dispersing the Poison, to whom they are recommended, by way of Antidote.

That *the Receiver is as bad as the Thief*, is an Old Saying among us, and it is not long since when a certain Person of Quality, to whom a Book was Inscribed without his Knowledge, tho' very much on the Side of the Government, and written particularly in Favour of that Party which the intended Patron espous'd, cryed, *Sir, you are much in the Wrong for making Use of my Name without asking my Consent, for I look on my self, if I receive your Present, as responsible for all the Inadvertences or Faults that may be in it, therefore you must excuse me if I return it, without Looking into it, much more giving it my Approbation*; and so dismiss'd the Author with a Caution to observe a due Decorum for the future, and send the Body of the Book for the Perusal of the Person he made Choice of to Protect it from Oblivion, before he ventur'd to set his Name to the Dedication.

Had Mr. *Steele* acted what this Gentleman was advised to do, the Clergy would have known the Value of the Present that was to be made to them, and consequently have left their Desires with him, to Address

Another Body of Men, than such as were obliged in Honour and Conscience to defend those Altars, which, by the Tenure of his Treatise, were intended to be over-turn'd, under the Notion of being Aided and Assisted.

Mistake me not, as if I design here to insinuate, that the Topicks which you chiefly seem to go upon, (*viz.*) *The Merits of the Revolution, and the Maintainance of the Protestant Succession, are not adapted to our Relishes,* since none went more heartily into the One, or can be in greater Expectance of Blessings from the Other, than the Gentlemen of our Cloth; but I would give you to understand, that where unnecessary Reflections are made on Her Majesty's Choice of the Present Ministry; where Sovereignty is blended with Subjection, and the People are intimated to be Co-Ordinate with their Prince; where Odious and Unjust Reflections are made upon the most Glorious *Peace* as ever was obtain'd for the *British* Nation; where a General's Services are prefer'd to his Duty, and it is rather look'd upon as an Act of Merit to be at the Head of a Party that is in a different Interest from their Queen, than to embrace Opinions She thinks fit to make Choice of. In a Word, where the Blessings of King *William's* Glorious Reign are only introduced to Blacken the Wise Administration of Her Present Majesty, and the Predecessor is brought upon the Stage, for no other Reason than to Detract from the Glories of the Successor, who has as much gone beyond that Monarch in Success, as She has in Concerting Measures to bring Her Designs to a Happy Conclusion; there are, I say, just Grounds given to suspect Machinations and Contrivances, which I dread to think of at the Bottom.

Therefore, had you retain'd that Esteem for us which you so Lavishly profess, you had shown it after a more agreeable Manner, by coming into the World without a Dedication; or, if Works of yours are never to be Introduced without that *Epicope* at the Head of them,

them, by Transferring your Complement elsewhere. The *Junco*, the Kit-Cat, and Beef-Stake are yet in Being, and certainly you could not have been at a Loss to have pick'd out a Patron from either of those Wise Bodies more fit to Recommend your Inimitable Performances, than the Clergy of the Church of *England*, whose Indispensable Duty it is to condemn and explode them: Notwithstanding you are pleas'd to say, That you have in all your Words and Actions, from your Youth upwards, Maintain'd an Inviolable Respect to Us, and our Order.

I shall not refer to some past Actions of yours, which if once set before you would convince you of the little Grounds you have for such an Assertion as this: Neither do I think the People committed to our Charge want to be inflam'd, at this Time of Day, against your Innocent Men, who of all Persons in the World have the least Claim to that Character, if acting in Defiance of Law and Gospel Invalidates their Title to it; but shall only observe, that if you always Spoke and Thought of Our Holy Order, with the utmost Deference and Respect, you would not on the very Day you gave Notice of the Publication of your *Crisis*, have Inserted Odious and Scandalous Misrepresentations of the Proceedings of the Convocation in *Ireland*: A Clergy whom you are oblig'd to speak Honourably of, from the Deference you ought to pay to Religion and the Place of your Birth; a Clergy who have as much advanced their Reputation by a firm Adherence to the Cause of God, and an Unshaken Regard to the Dignity of their Office, as the *H———* of *C———* in that Kingdom have sunk their Character, by calumniating the most Exalted Merit, and shewing their Dissatisfaction at the most Gentle and Impartial Administration of Justice.

What Remains worthy of Notice in your Dedication, which seems wholly intended to lull your Readers into a State of Security, from all Dangers that can arise from

Faction and Schism, and only keep them awake to Imaginary Fears, is your Proposal to the Universities, to let the Statutes made in St. Stephen's Chappel Supercede those of their Founders, and tho' it is contrary to all the Tyes of Oaths and other Obligations, to quit *Aristotle, Des Cartes*, the Schoolmen, and the Fathers, for the Perusal of the Acts of Settlement. There is no Question to be made but the Gentlemen who constitute those Venerable Bodies inculcate the Necessity which the Pupils ly under of being Observant to all Humane Laws that are (or ought to be) founded on those of God; but as it is their Duty to teach Obedience to the Civil Magistrate in Being, so it is their Practice to prefer Submission to the Prince actually reigning, to all Thoughts of Her Successor after Her Death. Wherefore, tho' you have obtained by your Writings to have the Regimen of Milliners and Toymens-Shops, it does not look very prudent in you to take upon you the Direction of our Universities, who, will always, notwithstanding your Invidious Reflections upon several Gentlemen that have come to sit in Parliament from thence, send up Advocates for the Prerogatives of the Crown, as well as the Rights and Liberties of the Subject.

One Word more with you; and I have done with what relates to our Order: The rest shall have under Consideration, what is treated in the Body of your Book. What Authority has Mr. Steele, or rather what Presumption has he not, to talk of the Nature of Oaths, and prescribe the Observance of them to the Clergy? Is this a Token of his Deference and Respect? This, an Indication of his Submission to his Spiritual Pastors? It behoved him rather to have been silent on that Point, for tho' the Laity will own him for their Censor and Guardian, 'tis very Improper for him to assume to himself the Direction of those, from among whom arise the Lords the Bishops, the Fathers of the Church,

Church, who Constitute the First of the Three Estates of the Kingdom.

Having done with your Dedication, I shall have little to say to your Preface, which is nothing else but a Jumble of Words from *Harrington's Oceana*, and Quotations from Persons, that make nothing to your Purpose further, than that you seem not to have parted with all the Respect you make Professions of to the Clergy, since you give the Reverend Mr. *Hoadly* the Preference to the Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor, from whose Elaborate and finish'd Defence of Dr. *Sacheverel*, you cull out a Piece of a Sentence, which, in your Opinion, seems to Authorize Resistance of Princes. Had you went a little further, and given us some whole Periods of that most Excellent Man's Speech, you would have discover'd it was your Business to conceal them, tho' you have gone far enough, (which I suppose by this Time you repent of) to clear him from the Odious Imputation of being in the Interest of Popery and the Pretender, by making him say, That *the Revolution was a Case of Necessity, when our late Unhappy Sovereign then upon the Throne, Misled by evil Counsellors, endeavoured to Subvert and Extirpate the Protestant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom.*

The Porch being thus gone thro', my next Entrance is into the Main Building; and here such a Scene of indigested Matter presents it self to my View, that, at first Sight, I am weary of the Prospect, and ready to shut my Eyes out of an Abhorrence of what they are entertain'd with. *Liberty, Liberty*, is inscrib'd upon every Pillar; but *Rebellion, Anarchy, Disorder and Confusion* are the Basis by which they are supported. The Definition of this *Shibboleth* of the Faction call'd LIBERTY, is *the Happiness of Men's Living under Laws of their own Making, by their Personal Consent, or that of their Representatives, that is, 'Of being free Agents in such a Sense, as exclusive of the Laws of God, subjects them to no Authority but that of Parliament, no Restrictions but what they*

they themselves shall think allowable, without any Re-
 gard to the Sacred Writings, or the Commands of the
 Wise Governour of the Universe, who puts the Fear
 of the King in the same Precept which enjoins that of
 himself, and expressly declares, that, *Where the Word of*
a King is, there is Power, and who shall say unto him, What
dost thou? But the Recital of Scripture may be ungrate-
 ful to one, who, notwithstanding his being Author of the
Christian Heroe, and his frequent Repetitions of Dr. South's
 Sermons, in his *Tribuluary Papers*, is altogether for the
Pagan Systeme, and says, *LIBERTY is essential to our*
Happiness, and they who resign Life itself, rather than part
with it, do only a Prudent Action, but those who lay it down,
and voluntarily expose themselves to Death, in Behalf of their
Friends and Country, do an Heroick One! What sort of
Friends your's are, and what *Country*, it is so well known,
 without a Comment, that I shall only observe, that to
Resign Life, and Voluntarily expose one's self to Death, are so
 very much the same Thing (tho' you make the one a
Prudent Part, and the other an *Heroical*) that you cannot
 but own yourself guilty of Sleeping over your Lucubra-
 tions sometimes as well as other Drowsy Men of the Quill.
 I must also tell you, that your *Heroes*, by your own Con-
 fession, are not very *Prudent*, since it is apparent, from
 what has been just quoted, that they are here acknow-
 ledg'd not to do a *Wise Thing*; an Assertion that might
 have been spar'd in Consideration of his Grace the Duke
 of Marlborough, who, by this Time, has had your Bundle
 of Acts of Parliament transmitted to him at *Antwerp*, as
 well as my good Lady Dutchess, who, without Question,
 is one of your Subscribers, or, will take off great Num-
 bers, to bestow among the *Walloon Ladies*, for the Perpe-
 ruation of her Husband's Exploits, which are therein
 drawn at full Length, to put the People in Mind of his
 great *Successes*, who had been better Edify'd by a Survey
 of his great *Submission*, and *Obedience* to his Royal Mi-
 stress's and Benefactress's *Will and Pleasure*.

What

What is meant by the Recital of this Fortunate General's Actions at this Time of Day it requires not any great Penetration to know; neither is it a hard Task to discover why the Queen has so little Share of the Glories of her Reign, and is so Slightly and Cursorily pass'd over; since a just Display of Her Wisdom and Happiness in the Choice of Wise Measures, would lessen the Achievements of those She has been pleas'd to make the Instruments of putting them into Execution; and his Grace would loose some part of the Honours, his Favourite Partizans would have him to engross, should Her Majesty come in for a Share with him. No, no, the Outed Ministry, whom you Act in Concert with, and whom the whole Drift of your Writings is to shew the want of, have given you other Instructions than to let the Foresight and providential Care of so Good, so Gracious, and so Beneficent a Princess as Her Majesty, to stand open to the View, and set in Full Light attract the Admiration and Reverence of all Her Subjects. That would be an Act of Indiscretion foreign to their Interest, who are for consulting the Benefit of Aliens before that of their own Country; because the Rays of Majesty would be too strong for False Glaring Emanations of Light, and like the Sun at Meridian Height, swallow up, and make to disappear all the other Luminaries that move round it. His Grace must have all the Glory of the Victories and Conquests that have been gain'd by the poor Soldiers Blood, who have struggled with Hunger, and have been parch'd up with Thirst, have forc'd their Way to Conquests thro' the Mouths of Canons, and have had their Brains dash'd out against Stone Walls to aggrandize one Single General; while a Queen, to whose Favour and Influence he owes all his Greatness, and by whom alone he has the Opportunity of Enriching himself with the Spoils of Ruin'd Provinces, shall be excluded from the Records of Fame, and be pass'd over as a meer Cypher in your Panegyrical. By the same Parity of Reason, which you make use of to transfer the poor

Sol:

Soldiers Labours and Praises on the Commander in Chief, Her Majesty's Encomium should have been preferable to that Commander's; since, if the one by the Virtue of his Authority over those that are Subordinate to him, ought to reap the Fruits of all their Labours, the other who is the Fountain of that Authority, and from whom, next under God, flows the Power of being Victorious, has a much juster Claim not only to what he has taken from them, but the Praises he has acquir'd by his own personal Valour.

Far be it from me to lessen or detract from the just Merits of that Great Man, whose Happiness it was to be equally supported by the Bravery of his Troops, and the Generosity of his Friends, and who amidst all the pressing Necessities of the War in its other Branches, never wanted Supplies to carry on a Project, or execute it with Success: Far be it, to say that his Campaigns every Summer Abroad, were not as conducive to the Nations Honour and Interest, as his Operations in the Cabinet at Home; Far, very far, from a Person in my Circumstances to alledge, that he was not as Dutiful and implicitly obedient to his Queen, as he was Serviceable to his Country, tho' for what Reason the first dismiss'd him from his Attendance at Court, and the last with Satisfaction beholds him absent from the Camp, remains no Secret. But when those Services are trump'd up to Hush the Din of Enquiries against Mismanagements; when the Merits of a Subject are pleaded in Bar of the Exercise of Her Majesty's just Prerogative, and are new varnish'd over to create a Distrust of Ingratitude in the Sovereign; when the People are appeal'd to, to be Judges between him and his Queen; who has thought fit to Displace him, and his Character is emblazon'd on purpose to make his Removal from the Helm the more Underserv'd and Causeless; then it is every Man's Duty to rise up in Vindication of Injur'd Royalty, and assert the Justice of a Cause that is attempted to be blacken'd by Scandalous and Mean Insinuations. Nor can it be call'd

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Want of Humanity or Candour to affirm, That (whatsoever Circumstances that once Favourite-General now lies under) he has been more than fully compensated for all the Toils and Fatigues he has ever underwent by the Bounty of his Prince, and the Liberality of his Country; since if he had gain'd us as many Towns as he has acquired for the Emperour, or put us in Possession of so extended a Frontier as the *Dutch* are Masters of by his Means, he had still been in Arrears to the Gracious Condescension of the One, and a very Insolvent Debtor to the Generosity of the Other.

Who was for the Continuance of the War, and for what End; it is too notoriously known, not to be in every Body's Mouth: No Wonder then that those who took Part with such as broke up the Conferences at *Gertruydenbergh*, where those very Terms of Accommodation were offer'd by *France*, which they now raise Clamours for not being obtain'd at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, should persist in their empty and noisy Cavils against it. That was a Work which might have been accomplish'd with greater Advantage to the *Common Cause*, had it so pleas'd the Plenipotentiaries who were intrusted with Carrying it on, but was reserv'd by Providence to be compleated by other Hands more willing to redress the Grievances of their Country, and more ready to sacrifice their Ease and Quiet to the Repose of the Publick, than their Predecessors were to offer up our Lives and Estates to the *Ambition* and *Avarice* of a few *State Leeches*.

These Worthy Patriots at their first Coming to the Places which they fill and discharge with unspotted Sincerity, found an empty Exchequer, and the Nation loaded with immense Debts; yet, tho' the Injuries of an Administration, whose Corruptions made almost every Fund that was appropriated to the Service of the Government fall short of its intended Purposes, had eaten thro' the Bowels of our Treasure, and like a Canker, had wasted our Coin, they made such Provision to enable us to make a Stand against the Enemy, that Maugre all his

Intelligence and Address in making Discoveries, the *Most Christian King* was kept in the Dark, from the Knowledge of our Circumstances, and has had such a Peace impos'd upon him by the Vigilance of the Ministry, and the Vigour of the last Parliament in Granting Supplies, and in giving into the Measures necessary for Procuring what could only prevent our Ruin, render'd the Reputation of our Councils more Conspicuous than the Honours we had acquired by our Victorious Arms, notwithstanding you are presumptuous enough to say, ' You shall not presume to enter into an Examination of ' the Articles of Peace between Us and *France*, but there ' can be no Crime in Affirming (if it be a Truth) the ' House of *Bourbon* is at this Juncture become more Formidable, and bids fairer for an Universal Monarchy; ' and to engross the whole Trade of *Europe*, than it did ' before the *War*.

If a Man should ask *Mr. Steele*, how this can possibly be true? 'Tis a Hundred Pounds to a Penny but he would be to seek for an Answer, because it is not in the Power of the Wisest Head in the whole Faction to make it appear. At this Rate Contradictions would be taken for receiv'd Truths, and Princes might be said to grow stronger by being weaken'd. Was not the King of *Spain*, before the Commencement of the last *War*, in Possession of all *Catalonia*, with the Kingdom of *Naples*, *Majorca*, *Minorca*, *Sardinia*, *Gibraltar*, the Dutchy of *Milan* and every individual Spot of Ground in the *Spanish Netherlands*; which, by the Conclusion of the Peace you are so very angry with, are either given up to, or left in other Hands? Has not *France*, by the Cession of *Newfoundland*, the Island of *Nova Scotia* in *Acadia*, *Hudson's Bay*, and the Continent adjoining to it, with other large Tracts of Land, Provinces and Towns to the *English*, enlarg'd the Boundaries of the *British* Empire, and enabled us to carry on a more Advantageous Traffick to almost all Parts of the World than any other Nation? Is not *Dunkirk*, about whose

whose Demolition, and about whose Harbour you have insulted your Sovereign, which it would be the greatest Act of Barbarity to fall up before the Merchants had Shipp'd off their Effects, in a Manner levell'd; and are not our Apprehensions of any future Mischiefs from thence all remov'd and put to Silence? Were the *Dutch* Masters of *Tournay*, *Luxemburgh*, *Menin*, *Ipres*, *Ostond*, &c. before the *War*, or had they a Barrier on the Side of *France*, of as great Extent as the *Seven Provinces*? Most certainly nothing like it. In what Sense then can the House of *Bourbon* be affirm'd to increase in Strength, when the Noblest, the Richest, the most Convenient Branches of the Two Kingdoms are lop'd off from their respective Bodies Politick for the Security of the *Peace* of *Europe*, and the Establishment of a *General Tranquillity*? How can any Man that is not lost to all Reason and Shame lay down such false, such unaccountable Positions?

Your Distrusts likewise of the long Continuance of the Suspension of Arms between *Spain* and *Portugal*, have as little Foundation as the Rest of your Imaginary Dangers; since the *Peace* is so far advanced between those Potentates, as to Stick but at one Point, which is Demanded on the Part of his most Catholick Majesty, and that is Restitution for some Shipping Seiz'd in the *Portuguese* Harbours, at the first Entrance of that Nation into the Grand Alliance. But any Possibility of a Breach of Friendship gives you a Handle to declare, That it is just going to be made, especially when it Glances at your Sovereign and Her Ministry, that are under Obligations, and will certainly abide by them, of procuring such Conditions of *Peace* for *Portugal*, (who if we had not come to Terms of Agreement without them, would have Articled with them exclusive of us) as shall fully come up to the Tenor of the Treaty concluded between the two Kingdoms.

Not that this Savours of one Third Part of the *Gall* which is mix'd with your Ink, when you Pen down the

the Case of the *Catalonians* in Defiance of Her Majesty's Justice, who would have obtained a General Amnesty for them; and had actually the Grant of it, could they have stoop'd to accept it from a Prince who has more than once offer'd it them, upon laying down their Arms. ' I mention the *Catalonians*, say you, but who can mention the *Catalonians* without a Tear? ' Brave Unhappy People! Drawn into the War by the ' Maritime Powers, from which only a Land encompass'd by Land by *France* and *Spain*, could hope for ' Relief, now abandon'd and expos'd to the Resentment ' of an Enraged Prince, whose Person and Interest they ' have always Oppos'd; and yet still so Fond of their ' Ancient Liberties, that tho' Hem'd up in a Nook of ' Land by the Forces of the two Crowns, and closely ' Besieged in *Barcelona*, they Chuse rather, like their ' Countrymen the *Saguntines* of Old, to perish with ' their Wives and Children than live in Slavery. Did the ' *French* King with a Conquering Sword in his Hand, ' ever abandon the least and most Inconsiderable of his ' Allies? No, when those very *Catalonians* had Assist- ' ed him against the King of *Spain*, he did not give up ' his Power of Treating, till he had made the most ' Honourable Conditions for them; not a single Man ' amongst them was then Hurt either in his Person or ' his Privileges; but now ——— Poor Unhappy *Catalo-* ' *nians* worthy of a better Fate, Good and Gracious ' God, to whom shall be attributed the Loss of this ' Brave People! Dreadful the Doom of those who shall ' in thy sight be esteem'd their Destroyers!

Rather than not fall Foul upon the Queen and Her Faithful Servants, even the *French* King's *Bona Fides* which you have so often Ridicul'd and Censur'd for the Breach of the most Solemn Engagements shall be put in Ballance with, and made to outweigh Her Majesty's; when Her Worst Enemies will allow that no Endeavours have been wanting in Her to make that Desperate People, upon their Submission, be received into Grace.

(21)
Grace, and Reinstated in their just Privileges; tho' not such as are equal to the *Castilians*, a Grant which they never had, nor ever were able to obtain from former Princes. Your Comparison also of those Desperate Wretches to the *Saguntines* is of the same Complexion with the Rest, for those had no Room left for a Capitulation, and upon their Surrender were unavoidably doom'd to Perpetual Bonds; but these have the Means in their Hands, upon laying down their Arms, to enjoy any Liberty but that of Rebellion; which, as Matters now stand with them upon the Emperor's leaving them to Shift for themselves, their continuing to oppose Force to Force must be deem'd, since, by so doing, he has intirely quitted the Sovereignty over them, and left them to the Dominion of his Rival King *Philip*. So that you have not foretold the Wrath of Heaven to fall heavy upon the Queen alone, but your Two Favourite Powers, the *Emperor* and the *Dutch*, who have equally left them to make the best Conditions they can.

This is a Charge that makes you Criminal to the last Degree, and worthy of the Animadversions of that Government which you so Heinously affront, in almost every Branch of its Administration, and this alone might make its Displeasure fall heavy upon you in the severest Resentment: But the time is drawing near when it is Reasonably to be suppos'd you will have the Benefit of that *English Liberty* you so much Boast of, in being call'd to an Account for it by your Peers, to whose Determination I shall leave you, after I have quoted one Sentence more, which for Malignity and Virulence exceeds every Passage yet taken Notice of. *It is no Time, says your C R I S I S, Page 26. to talk with Hints and Innuendoes, but Openly and Honestly to profess our Sentiments before our Enemies have compleated, and put their Designs in Execution against Us. As Divided a People as we are, those who are for the House of Hanover are infinitely Superiour in Number, Wealth, Courage, and all Arts Military and Civil,*

to those that are in the contrary Interest. If this does not
look like Job's Practice in Numbering the People, and
Exciting them to Civil Dissensions, under the Notion
of Asserting the *Hanover* Succession, which none have
less in View than Men of *Republican Principles*, then, I
have no manner of Knowledge of Mr. Steele's Way of
Writing; but if it does, you'll give me Leave to *Wish*
you a good *Deliverance*, and acquaint you, that 'tis hop'd
your Sentiments will be found to be of the same Ten-
dency by those that are proper Judges in Criminal
Cases, as they are by

Yours, &c.

B. R.



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